

Greetings to the Members of the Oregon Legislature, Renters, and Allies.

Thank you for giving me the time to share my experiences as a renter in Oregon.

I have been an Oregon renter since 1986, except for two episodes of Homelessness, from 1989-90 and again, briefly, in 2013. I have been fortunate to have had a Section 8 Voucher since 2013, which makes housing costs somewhat easier for me than for many other struggling Oregonians, right now.

I am a Disabled Oregonian, with multiple disabilities, homebound, living most of my time in a hospital bed. I rely upon caregivers to do most Activities of Daily Living for me, including, cooking, food preparation, shopping, washing dishes, bathing, taking out garbage, etc. From October 10 to November 18, I was quarantined with Covid-19, which I was infected with from a caregiver. The Agency providing my care then pulled my caregiving, and I had to rely upon food and grocery delivery services to be able to eat, which did not accept EBT Cash, which is how I receive SNAP benefits. I ran through all my funds very quickly, skipping eating some days.

I ended up in a seriously hard place financially, in arrears in several bills, and subsequently, unable to pay December Rent. I tried several agencies and non-profits to attempt to receive rent assistance, before the rent was due. These included Community Action Team and St. Vincent Du Paul. None had funds available, due to high volume of requests, and limited funds. Finally, I was able to obtain help through my mosque only because my Section 8 rent is small. They would not have been able to assist with full rent.

My low-income complex of 248 units, most of them family units, is seeing a constant parade of moving trucks, due to evictions and people unable to pay rent, because of the ongoing Covid crisis. These are low-income families and individuals, many refugees and/or disabled, who were struggling before Covid-19. The struggle is so much harder now and hitting lower income people disproportionately. The Current Crisis Needs Ongoing Funding to Prevent Further Destruction of People's Lives.

- **Provide new funding for continuing access to rent assistance for tenants with low-income through the winter months until new federal resources are available, and for the landlord guarantee fund.**
- Modify SB 278's safe harbor period to cover the entire application period, and extend the sunset on protections. Tenants who have applied for assistance should be protected until their application has been considered, and either granted or denied, no matter when they apply.
- Extend the sunset on the current 10-day (as opposed to 72 hours) notice period for nonpayment evictions, coupled with updated notice to tenants about eviction process and where to find rent assistance. This is a common-sense provision that works to facilitate access to available resources designed to prevent displacement.
- Expand and extend the current 60-day landlord guarantee fund to cover any period of time (not just 60 days) if a landlord delays eviction and a tenant is ultimately denied assistance or receives less than is owed when the case is closed. This removes the risk for the landlord in ensuring tenant stability and access to assistance.

No one should be evicted for nonpayment while their rent assistance application is being processed. We must act now to prevent the unnecessary and tragic generational harm that comes from eviction and displacement.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

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